

JURY FINDS DRIGGS GUILTY.

**BUT WITH A STRONG RECOMMEN-
DATION TO MERCY.**

He Admits He Got \$12,500 From Brandt-Bent Company and Gave Beavers \$2,800, but Says This Was for Republican Fund, Though He's a Democrat.

of mercy" was the verdict rendered after just thirty-five minutes deliberation by the jury in the case of Edmund H. Driggs, charged with having while a Congressman secured for the Brandt-Dent Company a contract whereby that concern sold to the Post Office Department 250 of the automatic cashiers it manufactures, at the price of \$150 per machine, Driggs himself receiving

Judge Thomas of the United States Circuit Court, Brooklyn, before whom the trial of Mr. Driggs began on Wednesday morning last, deferred sentence yesterday until such time as the District Attorney

and Mr. Hirsch, counsel for Mr. Driggs, should agree to appear with the defendant. This decision was announced by the Judge after he had refused Mr. Hirsch's motion for a new trial as well as his motion in arrest of judgment.

"In connection with the jury's recommendation to mercy," said Judge Thomas "it is but justice to Mr. Driggs to say that from the first he has frankly and with suitable dignity admitted the transaction. The only explanation of his action is that he did not know of the existence of the statute under which the indictment against him was found, or that he did not understand that his action brought him within

its operation. I may say further in connection with the jury's recommendation that, did not the statute make it obligatory on me to do so, I would not in passing sentence make imprisonment any part of the

The full extent of the penalty which may be imposed upon Mr. Driggs is a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for two years. It was the general belief on the part of those present in the court room that Judge

Thomas would fix the term of imprisonment at one day and the fine at a mere nominal sum. Mr. Hirsch said that the case would be carried up on appeal.

Mr. Driggs, who had been noticeably nervous during the trial and who was particularly fidgety and uneasy while the

jury was out, received the verdict itself with much apparent coolness and unconcern. He was left by Judge Thomas entirely free from all restraint, his Honor only requiring that he present himself for sentence at the time the counsel on both sides agreed upon for their next appear-

While it was generally conceded that the sentence imposed by Judge Thomas would be very light, the statute carried with it, in case of conviction, a penalty which, in the case of a man of as much

political ambition as Mr. Driggs, cannot be other than a severe punishment and humiliation. The statute provides that in case Senator, Representative or Delegate is convicted of the offence of which Mr. Driggs has been convicted, he never again can hold any office of honor or trust under the Government of the United States. For the purpose of avoiding this disability if the

The feature of yesterday's proceeding was the testimony of Driggs himself. He was called to the witness stand by his counsel about an hour and a half before the adjournment of court for the midday recess.

and was under a hot fire of cross-examination for a full hour during the afternoon session. Under the relentless and adroit cross-questioning of the United States District Attorney, Col. Youngs, Mr. Driggs reluctantly admitted that he had paid money to George W. Beavers, the former superintendent of the salaries and allowances

division of the Post Office Department without whose approval neither Driggs nor anybody else could have sold the automatic cashiers to the Department, Beavers himself being now under indictment for corrupt practices in office.

but as a contribution to the national Republican campaign fund. Mr. Driega himself is a Democrat and he explained his contribution of a large sum of money—\$2,800—to the campaign fund of the opposition party on the ground that Beaver was a friend of his and that he wanted to help him out. He denied in the most posi-

live terms that he had drawn any of the checks payable to Beavers personally. They were all drawn, he testified, in favor of the Republican national committee. On further cross-examination Mr. Driggs swore that at the time he did not know who was the treasurer of the Republican national committee; that he did not know that Cornelius N. Bliss was such a treasurer.

After Mr. Driggs had thus testified positively that he had made no checks payable to Mr. Beavers and that he had destroyed the checks after they came back to him, Major Little, an inspector of the Post Office

Department, was called to the witness stand and testified that Driggs had told him, Little, that one or two of the checks were drawn in favor of the national Republican committee and that four or five were drawn in favor of Mr. Beavers personally. In response to an inquiry by juror No. 6 it was brought out that Mr. Beavers had no authority so far as any

Mr. Driggs testified that the \$12,500 which he admitted having received was paid to him by the Brandt-Dent Company for his services in selling the machines, not merely to the Post Office Department but to the trade generally—to department stores, to

banks and other concerns likely to find such an article useful. He further testified, in support of this statement, that he had made a long trip to the West, going as far as the Pacific Coast, to promote the sale of the machine. In response to a direct question, he, with much earnestness, denied that on this trip he had tried to sell the machine to any store. He testified

In rebuttal on this point, Mr. George F. Miller, the special agent of the Brandt-Denby Company, was called to the witness stand.

"Did you see Mr. Driggs after his return from his Western trip?" asked Col. Youngs.

"I did," replied the witness.
 "What did you say to him?"
 "I asked him how he had made out in selling the machines to postmasters and he replied that he had made out fairly well."
 "Did he mention any particular postmasters with whom he had talked about

"Yes," replied Mr. Miller. "I remember that he mentioned the postmaster at Helena, Mon., in that connection, and also the postmaster at San Francisco."

Mr. Driggs was again called to the stand and asked once more about seeing postmasters on his Western trip.

"I did not see a single postmaster," he

replied with strong emphasis. "I did not enter a post office but once on my trip and that was at San Francisco, when I went to get my mail."

After Mr. Driggs had testified that the